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ROUTING

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ITEM NO: WH-5

DATE: 6 AUGUST 1974

SUBJECT: ISRAELI MOBILIZATION EXERCISE

A MOBILIZATION EXERCISE HAS BEEN UNDER WAY IN ISRAEL SINCE LAST WEEK. ISRAELI PRESS REPORTS STATE THAT SOME RESERVISTS WERE CALLED UP LAST WEEK AND OTHERS EARLY THIS WEEK. THE EXERCISE REPORTEDLY IS TO TEST A NEW SYSTEM FOR RECALLING THE RESERVES IN AN EMERGENCY. THE FULL EXTENT OF THE EXERCISE AND THE NUMBER OF RESERVISTS INVOLVED, HOWEVER, ARE NOT KNOWN.

ISRAELI MILITARY AUTHORITIES HAVE ANNOUNCED THAT A LARGE-SCALE MILITARY EXERCISE INVOLVING AIRBORNE, ARMOR AND INFANTRY FORCES HAS BEGUN ON THE ISRAELI WEST BANK. SOME OF THE RECALLED RESERVISTS PROBABLY ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE MANEUVERS.

BOTH THE RESERVE CALL UP AND THE MILITARY EXERCISE COME AT A TIME WHEN ISRAELI AUTHORITIES ARE SAYING THAT A NEW ROUND OF

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## OUTGOING MESSAGE

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FIGHTING COULD OCCUR IN THE MIDDLE EAST WITHIN THE NEXT 6 TO 12 MONTHS. THE ISRAELIS CLAIM THEY ARE TAKING PRECAUTIONS FOR SUCH AN EVENTUALITY. THESE PRECAUTIONS APPARENTLY INCLUDE PLANS TO RECALL "THOUSANDS" OF RESERVISTS, PARTICULARLY THOSE WITH TECHNICAL QUALIFICATIONS, TO PREPARE ISRAEL'S WEAPONS FOR ANY NEW WAR.

THE ISRAELIS APPEAR CONVINCED THAT THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY SERIOUS. THE TESTING OF THE ISRAELI MOBILIZATION SYSTEM IN PEACETIME IS UNUSUAL, AND THE RECALL OF LARGE NUMBERS OF TECHNICIANS AND THEIR RETENTION ON ACTIVE DUTY FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME WOULD BE A SERIOUS MOVE BECAUSE OF THE SEVERE ECONOMIC STRAIN IT WOULD CAUSE.

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